

Message Text

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10

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-07

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 OPIC-06

XMB-04 AGR-10 (ISO) W

----- 054615

R 222217Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0150

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 2156

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJ: GENERAL LOPEZ NEWS CONFERENCE

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 2129

1. GENERAL LOPEZ GAVE NEWS CONFERENCE ON MORNING OF
MAY 22. HE MADE THE FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS:

A. HIS PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH COLONEL MELGAR
HAS NOT SUFFERED ANY CHANGE;

B. THE POWER IS IN THE HANDS OF MILITARY GOVERN-
MENT. IT WAS RESPONSIBLE BOTH FOR PLACING HIM
AT THE HEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT AND FOR REMOVING
HIM;

C. HIS SITUATION WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES IS THAT
OF AN OFFICER ON ACTIVE SERVICE;
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D. HE FLATLY DECLARED THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO
BE CHIEF OF STATE OF A MILITARY GOVERNMENT AGAIN;

E. HE WOULD HAVE TO THINK IT OVER CAREFULLY

BEFORE REENTERING POLITICS. HE WOULD ACCEPT
BEING HEAD OF STATE ONLY IF HE WERE TO HEAD A
GOVERNMENT CONCERNED WITH ADVANCING HONDURAS' INTERESTS;

F. HE IS UNABLE AT THIS TIME TO SAY THAT THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OR UNITED BRANDS OR
REACTIONARY PARTIES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERTHROWING HIS
GOVERNMENT;

G. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR
SHOULD CONTINUE UNTIL A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION IS
ACHIEVED;

H. MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY
CAUSED PROBLEMS WITHIN THE COUNTRY, BUT THEY HAVE
ALSO BEEN THE SOURCE OF EMPLOYMENT FOR THE COUNTRY,
AND CHANGES IN THE RELATIONSHIP SHOULD BE CARE-
FULLY CONSIDERED BEFORE ANY ACTION IS TAKEN;

I. ELI BLACK NEVER OFFERED MONEY AS A BRIBE IN
HIS OFFICE OR ELSEWHERE;

J. THE DECREE ON THE BANANA EXPORT TAX WAS AGREED
UPON BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, NOT ONLY BY
BENNATON. HE WAS NOT A "SUPER-MINISTER";

K. IF HE WERE MELGAR, HE WOULD SUE UNITED BRANDS;

L. THE COMMISSION'S REPORT MERELY REFLECTS THE
INFORMATION GIVEN TO THE MEMBERS ABROAD AND IN
HONDURAS. THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION MERELY
REPEATED WHAT WAS TOLD TO THEM;

M. HE IS PREPARED TO APPEAR IN COURT, BUT
UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD HE GIVE A POWER
OF ATTORNEY TO OTHER PEOPLE TO INVESTIGATE HIS
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PERSONAL BANK ACCOUNTS;

N. HE DOES NOT KNOW WHY THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
PLACED ALL THE BLAME ON HIM. IF HE HAD THE
OPPORTUNITY, HE WOULD GO TO THE UNITED STATES TO
SEEK THE TRUTH; AND

O. HE HOPES MILITARY WILL CONTINUE SOCIO-ECONOMIC
REFORMS ENACTED BY HIS GOVERNMENT.
SOWASH

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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